THE TRIUMPH OF FAITH

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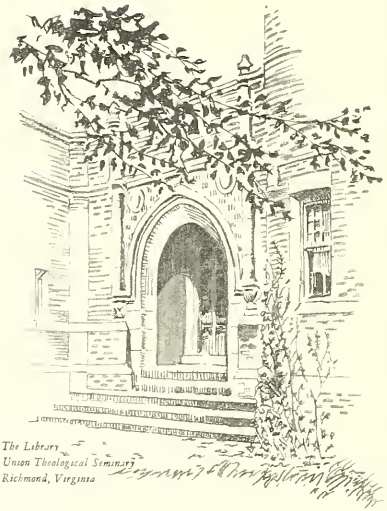

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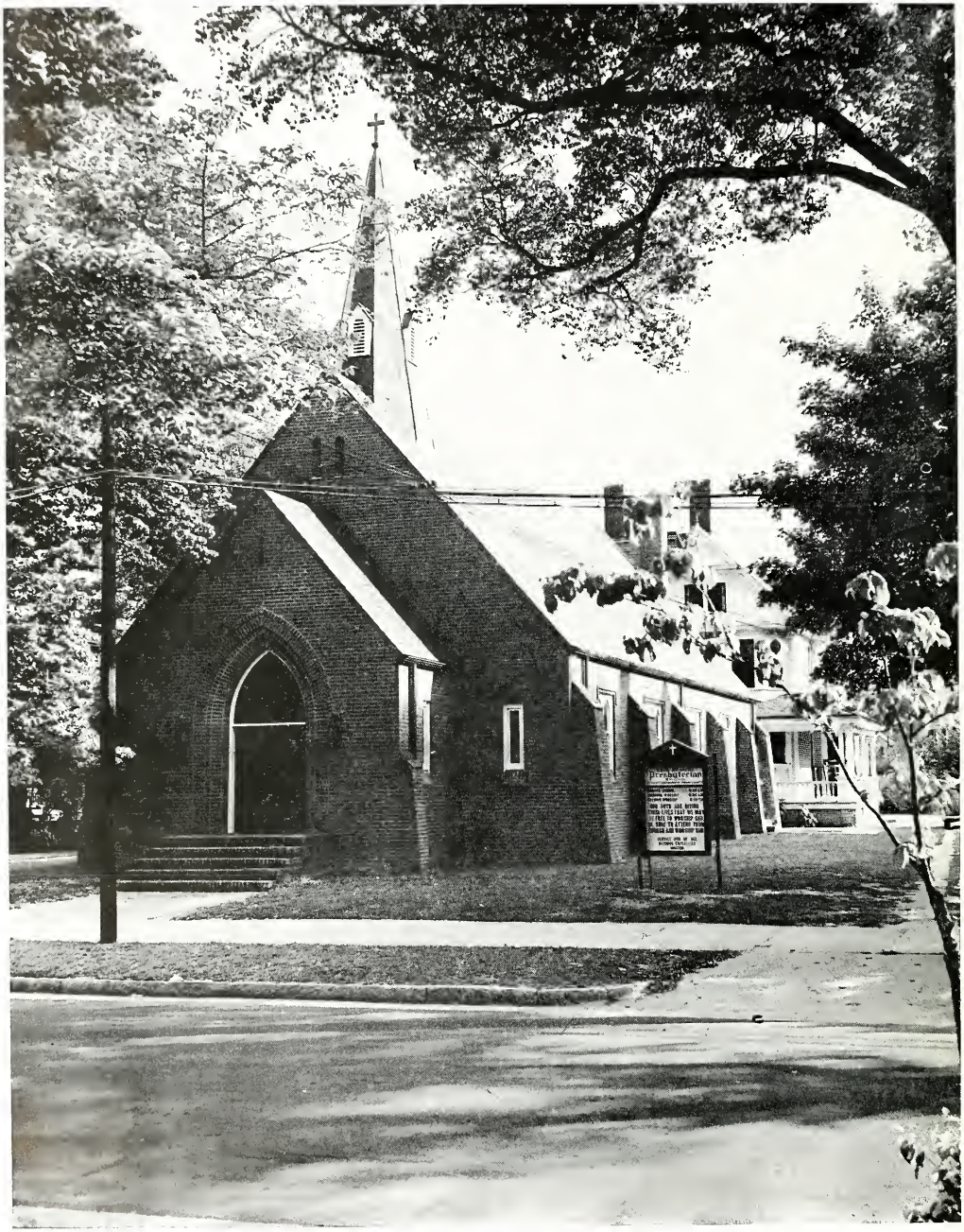

Presbyterian

THE TRIUMPH OF FAITH

THE STORY OF THE BUILDING PROGRAM OF THE

CANN MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ELIZABETH CITY, NORTH CAROLINA

Written at the direction of the congregation by Miss Mary E. Bright, Church Historian and member of the Building Committee.

Photographs by Courtesy of Frisby's Studio.

THE TRIUMPH OF FAITH

"That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving and tell of all Thy wondrous works." — Ps. 26:7.

"This Church, its building and equipment is a miracle of grace and glory. One feels that it is not the work merely of man's hands and brains but a Church that has grown to what it is because God has worked here. Five years ago no one in the Albemarle Presbytery or Elizabeth City dreamed that a building of such beauty and appointments could be erected here in such a short time. The symbolism of this Church, its upward pointing spire, its Baptismal Font, Pulpit, Communion Table, and the reason for its founding are lost unless its members carry out the doctrines of Christ, the proclaiming of His first coming to give Himself for us and of His second coming in glory."

These words in the prologue of Dr. Lacy's Dedication Sermon struck an answering note in the hearts of his hearers. We, the members of Cann Memorial Presbyterian Church, well knew that the erection of our new Sanctuary was indeed a miracle.

Back in the 1880's there was a small group of Presbyterians in Elizabeth City who had no organized church but who held services whenever a minister could be procured. During this time a Mr. and Mrs. Cann came here from Canada for reasons of health. They made friends among the Presbyterians and became interested in the little group. After they had returned to their home, Mrs. Cann wrote to Mrs. P. W. Melick asking how she might help them. Mrs. Melick suggested that she give money toward a church building. Upon her death shortly after it was found that she had left $800.00 to be used for that purpose.

On March 24, 1889 the group of Presbyterians were organized into a church by Dr. F. H. Johnston, the Evangelist of Orange Presbytery in which this section then belonged. To honor Mrs. Cann's memory the church was called Cann Memorial. There were only eight Charter members and seven children who were baptized as non-communicant members. Dr. Johnston later became the first pastor of the church and served it for ten years.

With Mrs. Cann's bequest as a nest egg funds were received for a church. The site was the northwest corner of Road and Mathews Street (now Colonial Avenue). The building was completed and dedicated in 1892.

The Old Church at the Corner of Road and Colonial

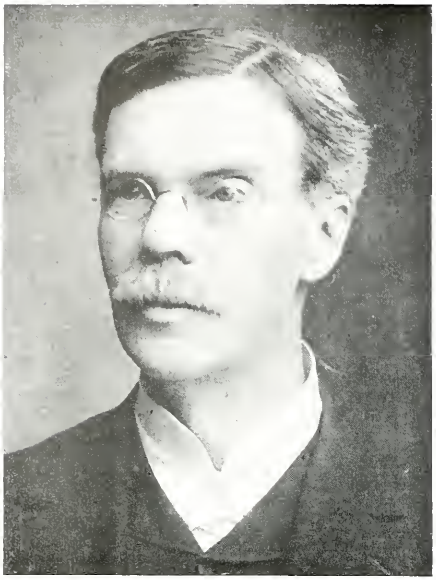
The membership of the church grew but has never been large and the church continued to receive support from the Home Mission Committee until recently. There is only one other Presbyterian church this side of the Albemarle Sound for this section of the state is predominantly Methodist and Baptist. Many Presbyterians came here for business reasons only to be transferred in a few years time. But the church ministered to them while they were here and they carried its influence to their new homes.

In 1925 a Manse was purchased at 203 N. Elliott Street. Mrs. Emma G. Ward, one of the charter members, in her will left the church $3,000.00 for this purpose. Synod and Presbytery added another $1,000.00 and the Ladies' Aid gave $500.00. The balance was to be paid as part of the budget.

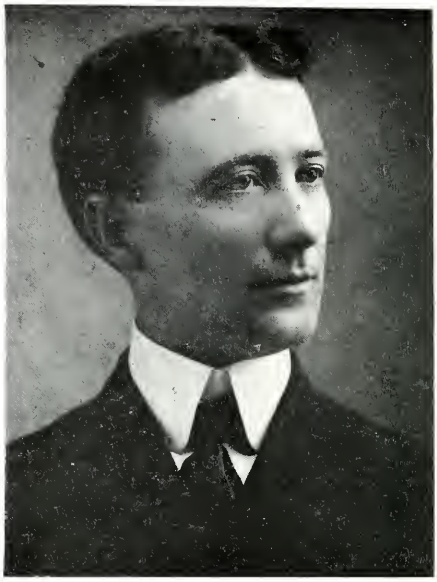
MRS. L. S. BLADES

Only Living Charter Member

By the late 1920's we realized that our church building was utterly inadequate for our needs. There were no Sunday School facilities whatever. Our pastor from 1928-1933 was the Rev. C. M. Brown. He realized our need for a new or enlarged building. A committee was appointed to try to plan for a small Sunday School room in the rear of the Church. Mr. Sprigg Brent, a deacon, was one of the most interested members of the Committee, but the financial outlook in these years was so dark that all plans had to be abandoned.



REV. FRONTIS HOWE JOHNSTON, D. D.



REV. FRANK MORTON HAWLEY, S. T. D.

REV. JAMES BELL BLACK, D. D.

REV. FRANK HENDERSON SCATTERGOOD, Ph.D.

During the ministry of Rev. L. W. Topping, 1933-1937, the needs of a new building again came to the fore but again the time did not seem favorable. For more than a year after Mr. Topping left the church was without a minister. During this time the pulpit committee studied church plans and investigated possible building sites, for it was felt that the small lot occupied by the church would make it impossible to enlarge adequately the present building.

In March 1939 the Rev. C. C. Crawford began his pastorate here. It was our hope that he would lead us in the building program that many of the members felt was absolutely necessary for the church's survival. He has proved indeed to be a leader of wisdom and courage and faith.

The first obstacle to be overcome in our program toward our desired goal was to wipe out the remaining debt on the manse. This now amounted to a little more than $500.00. But if the mortgage could be paid off at once a cash payment of $373.75 would wipe it out. Steps were then taken to raise this money. For a number of years the pupils in our Sunday School, anxious to have more adequate Sunday School facilities, had established a Birthday Building Fund. Each year on or near his birthday each pupil would make an offering for this fund amounting to one penny for each year. It was found that this fund had grown amazingly and that actually more than one hundred and fifty dollars had been salted away. This gave impetus to a search for more money—it was found. The Board of Deacons had established a sinking fund for painting the church — in this savings account there was $150.25. We then needed only $73.50 and we found that this also was available. Mrs. L. S. Blades for many years had been soliciting magazine subscriptions in the name of the Woman's Auxiliary—commissions over a period of years had been accumulating which enabled this fund to supply the remaining money. So with the birthday money of the Sunday School as the impetus the first start was made in the program which eventuated in our lovely church and religious education building.

After investigation of all available sites for a new church the one best suited to our purpose seemed to be what was known as the McCabe property. This was a large well built house on a lot approximately 100 by 200 feet situated on the south side of West Main Street. It had recently been papered and painted on the interior. At a congregational meeting on April 16, 1939, the following recommendations were made:

1. That the McCabe property, 311 West Main Street, be purchased.
2. That the house be moved to the rear of the lot and used for a Sunday School building.
3. That a church be erected on the front of the lot.

THE EDUCATIONAL BUILDING OR CHURCH HOUSE
(Later moved to rear of lot)

A committee was appointed to make the purchase. Mr. J. L. Gossard was chairman of this committee and the members were Dr. L. S. Blades, Miss Mary E. Bright, Mr. Warren F. Larson and Mr. Fred N. Lowe. The committee entered into a discussion of the purchase price with the Home Owner's Loan Corporation, owners of the property. When they reported to the congregation that it could be secured for $7,500 with a down payment of 10% and the balance paid in monthly installments through the church budget the congregation empowered them to purchase the property at that price. The purchase was completed June 15, 1939.

The house with its many rooms and large halls was admirably adapted to Sunday School use. No changes at all were necessary. The various Sunday School classes immediately began to furnish and equip their class rooms. Mr. S. E. Tillitt, then Superintendent of the Sunday School who was in the real estate business, turned over to the church the brokerage fee amounting to $187.50 which he had received in the purchase transaction. This money enabled the church to purchase chairs and other necessary equipment. The women of the Auxiliary equipped the kitchen. Very little money was spent in making the building ready for occupancy. But everyone was interested and everyone brought whatever he or she could from curtains to a piano. The first Sunday School services were held in the Educational Building July 9, 1939. Appropriate opening exercises were participated in by all departments of the church.

REV. CECIL MATHEWS BROWN

REV. LEONARD WESLEY TOPPING

REV. CLAYTON C. CRAWFORD
(Present Pastor)

During the summer of 1939 the Sunday School services were held in the Educational Building but all Worship Services were held in the church building on the corner of Road Street and Colonial Avenue. The feeling continued to grow that we must have a new church building. A large Coast Guard Air Base was being constructed a few miles outside of town. That was bringing a number of new people to Elizabeth City. We felt that we must have a better place of worship and a better program to offer the newcomers. This was the summer when war clouds hung heavy over Europe. In early September Hitler marched into Poland. England and France took up arms. Again it seemed hardly the time to launch a building program but we felt impelled to do so.

After morning worship, October 15, 1939 a congregational meeting was held. The committee that had been appointed in April to purchase the McCabe property and had completed its task was discharged with thanks. The two proposals submitted by the pastor in his morning sermon, namely, selling the old church property and embarking upon an immediate building program, were considered. The congregation voted to sell the church to the Salvation Army that had made an offer of $3,000 cash. They voted to transfer the worship services to the Educational Building beginning the next Sunday, October 22. The congregation elected a committee to canvass the church for money to erect a new church building. This committee was given power to select an architect and have plans drawn for a new church. The committee consisted of Mr. L. S. Blades, Jr., Miss Mary E. Bright, Rev. C. C. Crawford, Mrs. G. D. Towe and Mr. S. E. Tillitt.

The committee elected Mr. L. S. Blades, Jr. as chairman and Mr. S. E. Tillitt as secretary. The Church Treasurer, Mr. Camden Blades, though not a member of this committee graciously agreed to act as treasurer of all Building Funds. Negotiations were entered into with Mr. W. V. Cooke of the firm of Rudolph, Cooke and Van Leeuwen of Norfolk, Virginia. He agreed to submit plans for a church building.

Meanwhile plans were made for a canvass of the congregation. An attractive booklet was prepared with cuts showing the type church we hoped to erect. The booklet gave a brief history of the church, showed our present need of a building and gave a challenge to enter upon a building program. This together with a letter was mailed to every church member.

This was followed up by a canvass of the members on November 26th. The Committee was assisted in this canvass by Mr. J. L. Gossard, Mr. A. W. Houtz, Mr. Warren F. Larson and Mr. Garland D. Towe. Pledges were asked for to cover a period of three years. The following day pledges amounting to $3,830.30 were reported. These were increased to nearly $6,000.00. Remember our church was small. At this time we had only 77 members. But practically every adult made a pledge.

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

Left to Right—Rev. C. C. Crawford, Mrs. G. D. Towe, Judge L. S. Blades, Jr., Miss Mary E. Bright (Mr. Tillitt not shown).

In February Mr. Cooke submitted his plans. The Committee had had several conferences with him as to the type building desired. The final plans were for a Gothic Chapel of brick with a slate roof surmounted by a copper sheathed steeple. Mr. Cooke estimated that the building would cost not more than $10,000.00. These plans were presented at a congregational meeting March 3, 1940. The Committee reported to the congregation that enough money was in hand or in sight to move back the Educational Building and to lay the foundations, erect the walls and lay the roof of the new church. The congregation approved the plans drawn by Mr. Cooke and gave the Building Committee authority to proceed with the erection of the building but strictly on a pay-as-you-go basis. The congregation felt it would be unwise to assume a debt.

To onlookers it might have seemed the sensible and conservative course for such a small congregation to wait till the money to complete the church was in hand before the actual building was begun. But as a congregation we believed that we should step out on a venture of faith. Since a new church building was a real need of the congregation, we felt that we should, each one, give as much as we could, begin the work and have faith that we would be led to its completion.

The moving of the Educational Building to the rear of the lot was completed the week of June 12th. This proved to be a more expensive operation than was first estimated for it was found necessary to replace all the pipes in the plumbing and heating systems.

Sunday, September 22, 1940 marked an eventful day for Presbyterians. At 2:30 in the afternoon a simple ceremony marked the breaking of the ground for the erection of the new church. Friends of other denominations joined with us. The program was as follows:

Invocation ..... Rev. G. F. Hill
Rector Christ Episcopal Church

Scripture Lesson ..... Rev. C. C. Crawford
Pastor, Cann Memorial Presbyterian Church

Prayer ..... Rev. E. H. Potts
Pastor First Baptist Church

Address ..... Rev. Z. T. Piephoff
Pastor First Presbyterian Church, Williamston, N. C.

Ground Turning ..... Mr. C. W. Melick
Elder and oldest member of Cann Memorial Church

Benediction ..... Rev. H. K. King
Pastor First Methodist Church

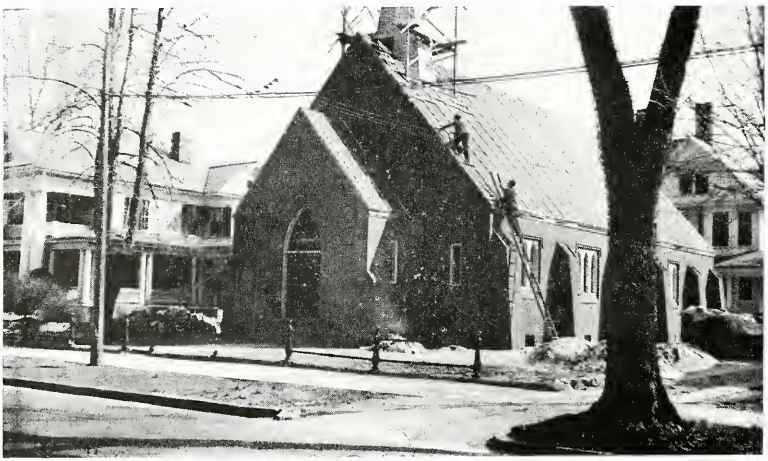
BREAKING OF GROUND FOR NEW CHURCH
MR. C. W. MELICK

The actual work of construction was begun in October. By this time it was very difficult to obtain workmen. Many of the local brick masons and carpenters were being drawn to Norfolk to work on the many defense projects begun there. This situation added to the difficulty and to the expense of building.

During this same period a new Grammar School was being built in Elizabeth City. Mr. D. W. Bumgarner, Superintendent of Herman-Sipe Company who had charge of the construction work on the school became interested in the erection of the church. He offered to erect the walls and roof of the church on a basis of cost plus 6%. His offer was gladly accepted.

Work continued for several months. Mr. W. H. Belk, who had already given the brick for the church, again came to our aid with a gift of money which was used for constructing the trusses and the roof decking. The Belk-Tyler Company at this time made a generous and welcome contribution. This was the result of Mr. Belk's interest in the work.

All the brick work was completed, window and door frames were in place, the roof trusses were up, the roof decking was put on and covered with felt paper and the steeple was erected. At this time not enough money was on hand for the slate roof and work was stopped temporarily.

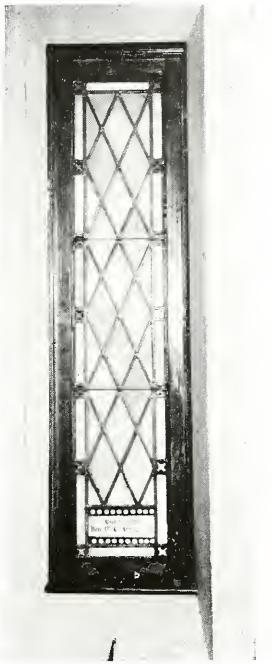


Many people outside our church membership gave most generously to our building program. Albemarle Presbytery gave $1,000. Mr. W. H. Belk of Charlotte gave all the brick needed. The names of all our friends who made a donation of money may be found at the end of this sketch.

The Building Committee felt that we were but carrying out the wishes of the congregation when we determined to make this church as beautiful as possible, as complete as possible and as worshipful as possible. Many trips were made to examine nearby churches for the purpose of noticing particularly the windows, the roof, the floor covering, the lighting fixtures and the organ.

In the spring of 1941 there was not enough money for a slate roof. For a time it seemed that we must be satisfied with second best. But a way opened for us to obtain the slate. To make way for the new school building an old one had been torn down. The slate from the old roof by the terms of the contract for the new school, could not be used on the new building. Yet it was as good as new. The

INSCRIPTION
"A Thank Offering for the Life of Camden W. Melick"



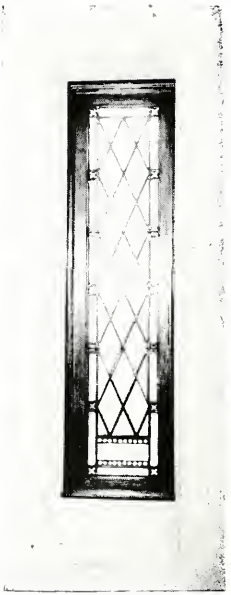
INSCRIPTION
"Given by Rev. C. C. Crawford"

necessary quantity was purchased and was soon in place on the church roof. And the cost was less than that of a good composition roof. Again we were most fortunate in securing copper for sheathing the steeple, for flashing the roof and for copper down spouts just before the sale of copper was frozen by the government.

The problem of windows had to be considered by the Building Committee. The cost of stained glass windows seemed prohibitive. Amber glass seemed to be the choice of necessity. Then was born the idea of offering the church members the opportunity of paying for a stained glass window. The plan met with great success. All of the windows were given. Most of them were given as memorials. The soft coloring of these windows aid immeasurably in creating an atmosphere of reverence.

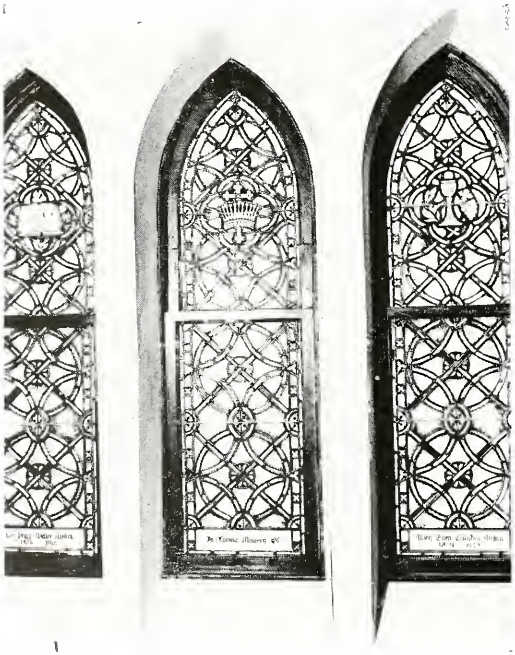
INSCRIPTION

"In Loving Memory of Charles Frederick Mather Niles and Fanny Sneath Niles"



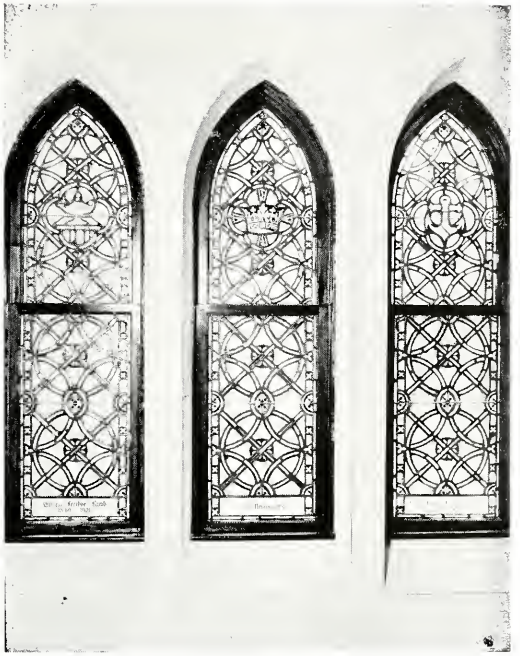
INSCRIPTION

"Given by Rev. L. W. Topping"



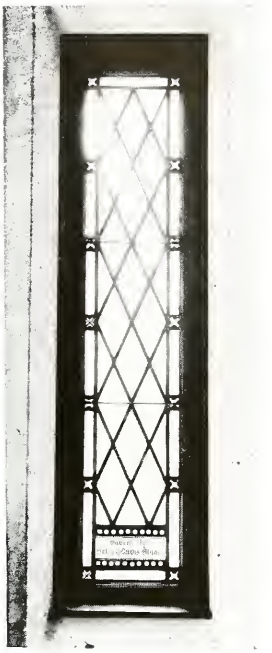
INSCRIPTION

"In Loving Memory of Rev. Philip Weller Melick and Mary Ellen Camden Melick"



INSCRIPTION

"In Memory of Enoch Fereber Lamb and Ella Gale Creecy Lamb"

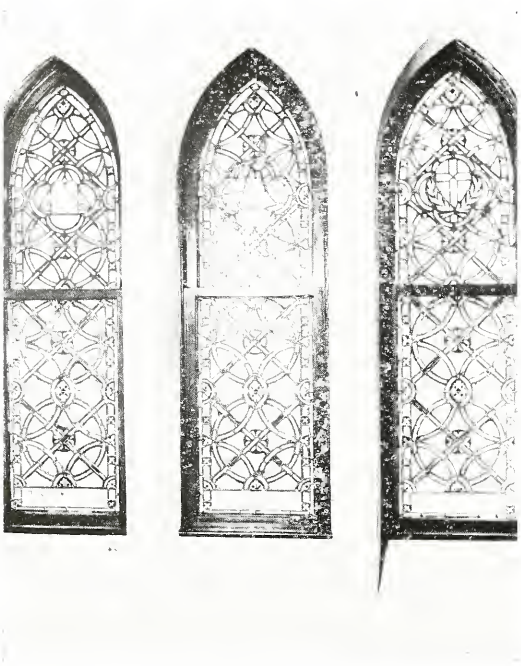


INSCRIPTION

"Given by Betsey Davis Blades"

In 1941 there was under construction just outside of Elizabeth City a Naval Air Station familiarly known as the Blimp Base. Many of the men who worked there were Presbyterians. Their aid in money matters and in other ways has been of inestimable value. This is one example. We had found the lighting fixtures that seemed to best fit the building, a Gothic lantern. But we felt that we could not afford them. Mr. Howard Pancoast, Electrical Engineer in the construction of the Naval Air Station, secured these fixtures for us at a very large discount. And his men came to the church at night, after working all day, and did all the wiring for the building. This was their gift. Without the work of these men our church could not have been completed. For it was impossible at this time to secure wiring material.

When the building was being wired it was decided to put in pipes to carry wires to the steeple for a sound system. We felt the church would not be complete without this and hoped it could be added at a later date.



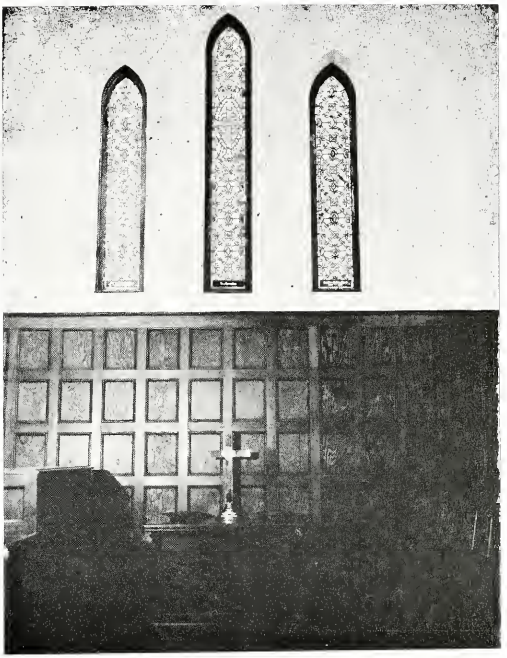
INSCRIPTION

"Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother"
Dr. Lemuel Showell Blades
Grace Melick Blades

INSCRIPTION

"Given by Rev. D. C. Crawford, Jr."

In the fall of 1941 construction work was at a standstill for lack of funds. At this time a new plan for completing the church was promoted by Mr. Crawford with the enthusiastic support of the Building Committee. Mr. Crawford and the Rev. Chester Alexander, Chairman of Presbytery's Home Mission Committee, obtained the agreement of the Assembly's Home Missions Committee, of Synod's Home Mission Committee and of Presbytery's Home Mission Committee to give the $6,000.00 necessary to complete and equip the building on condition that the church assume full self-support on April 1, 1942. The Committees would be reimbursed over a period of years by the money usually given for the support of the pastor. The church voted to assume self-support provided the necessary budget could be raised. This budget was $3,600.00. To raise it meant that practically every pledge must be doubled. It seemed an almost impossible task. But again the church members had faith. When the canvass was made and the pledges counted they totalled $3,741.60!



INSCRIPTION ON ALTAR WINDOWS

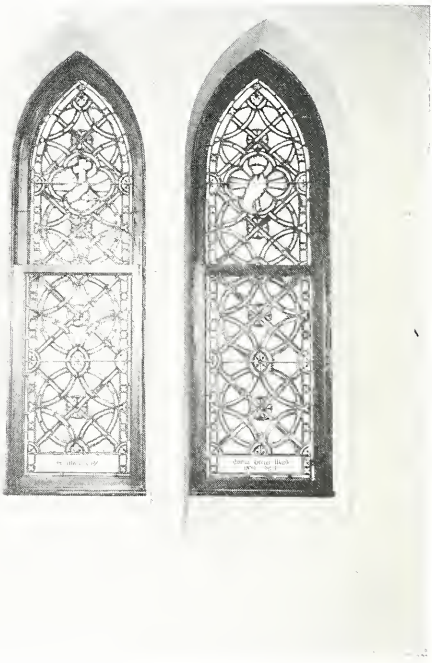
"In Memory of Samuel Lloyd Sheep and Pauline Hinton Sheep"

THE ALTAR CROSS

A check for the $6,000.00 was received. Work was immediately resumed upon the building. Mr. Crawford acted as general superintendent of building activities. Interest grew keener than ever. Members of the church and friends outside our membership began to say, "What else do you need? I want to help". The pulpit, the lectern, the baptismal font were given as memorials. One family gave the illuminated bulletin board in memory of the husband and father. Another gave a pair of pedestal vases. A friend not in our church gave a pair of wrought iron candle stands that have been used in several weddings already. A young lieutenant in the Army Air Force stationed here expressed a desire to give something because he felt more at home in this church than in any other he had attended in years. His gift was a beautiful brass cross for the communion table. Not long after giving this he was transferred. But the cross gleaming against the dark background is a constant reminder of his friendship and interest.

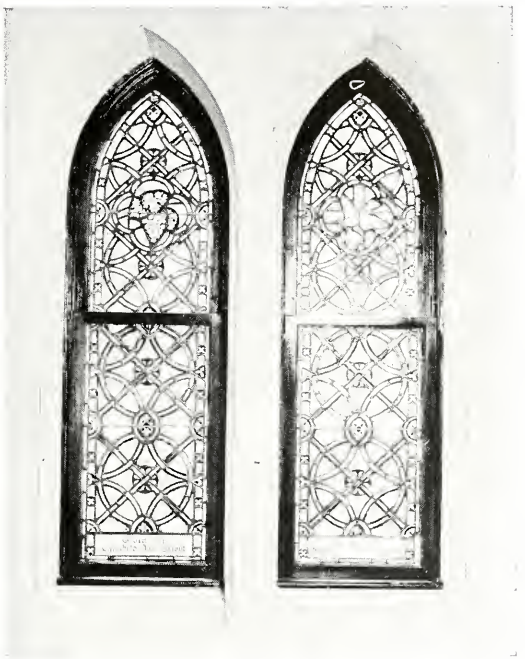
INSCRIPTION

"In Memory of George R. Bright"



INSCRIPTION

"In Memory of Emma Greene Ward"



INSCRIPTION
"Given by Elizabeth Dod Bright"

INSCRIPTION
"Given by Mary Elizabeth Bright"

Many times the Building Committee feared that necessary material and equipment could not be secured. This was 1942. Our country had been forced into the war by the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. Building material and equipment was becoming increasingly hard to find. But in every case our needs were met just before the orders came shutting down on that particular item. Our flooring and metal laths were secured just before the deadline. Our furnace was the last one the heating contractor had.

We felt that God had a very real work for the Presbyterian Church in this community and that this work could not be accomplished unless this building was completed. We felt this to be our task and it was our desire to carry it to completion. The opening of a way through so many difficulties and the generous and often spontaneous response when a need was made known made us very sure that we were proceeding according to the plan of God.

A gift made by three people made possible the installation of a complete sound system, something we had hoped to be able to buy in years to come. This system includes a tower broadcasting system and also earphones for the hard of hearing. Another heaven-sent gift was the offer of three men in the congregation to buy an organ. We had wondered when and how we might secure one.

Others in the church made themselves responsible for securing a carpet. A carpet was very hard to buy since little was being made because of war restrictions on wool. However, a beautiful and suitable piece was found in a local furniture store. The sponsor of the carpet announced the number of yards which would be required and the price per yard. People gladly bought from one to thirty-six yards each.

Finally on April 26, 1942 the first service was held in the new building, three years from the time a committee was appointed to purchase the site. The organ had not come. Neither had the chancel furniture. The manufacturers of both were having trouble with government priorities. The installation of the sound system was not quite complete. A piano and the old pulpit furniture were moved from the Educational Building. And a very thankful congregation worshipped for the first time in the new sanctuary.

Within less than a month the sound system was installed and the chimes rang out from the Musical Tower. This is the only musical tower in the Albemarle section. And the chimes have been enjoyed by all within their range.

INSCRIPTION ON READING DESK

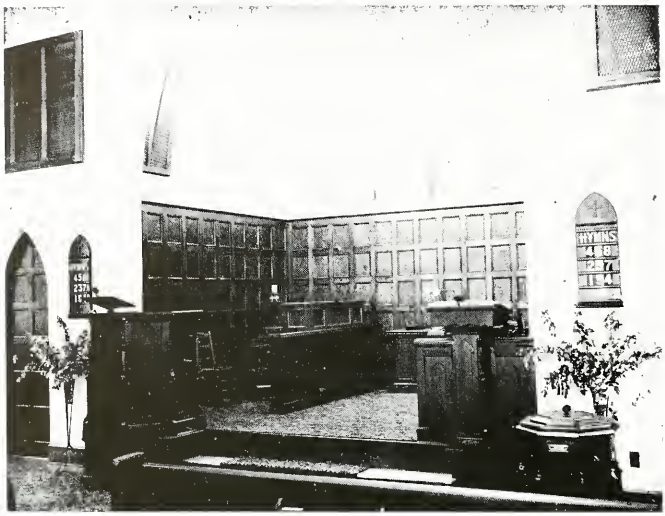
"In Memory of Harry H. Sheep, age 21, who gave his life in defense of his country, Dec. 8, 1941"

INSCRIPTION ON PULPIT

"In Memory of Nealie S. McDowell"

The chancel furniture was the last order completed by the company who were now making desks for the government. It came in the early summer. But it was feared that we might have to wait till after the war for the organ. Government restrictions on metal were forcing the plant to close. To our joy it came late in August barely ahead of the deadline for delivery of organs. It was used for the first time on September 20.

The church still lacked the wrought iron hand rails called for in the plans. The Committee had been unable to secure them. Now it was learned that they could be made in Goldsboro. One of our new members offered to give them. This completed the last item in the structure of the building. Choir benches were still needed in place of the chairs that were being used. A young man in the congregation offered to give these. Because of the difficulties of obtaining material and workmen in time of war these benches were not installed until June, 1943.

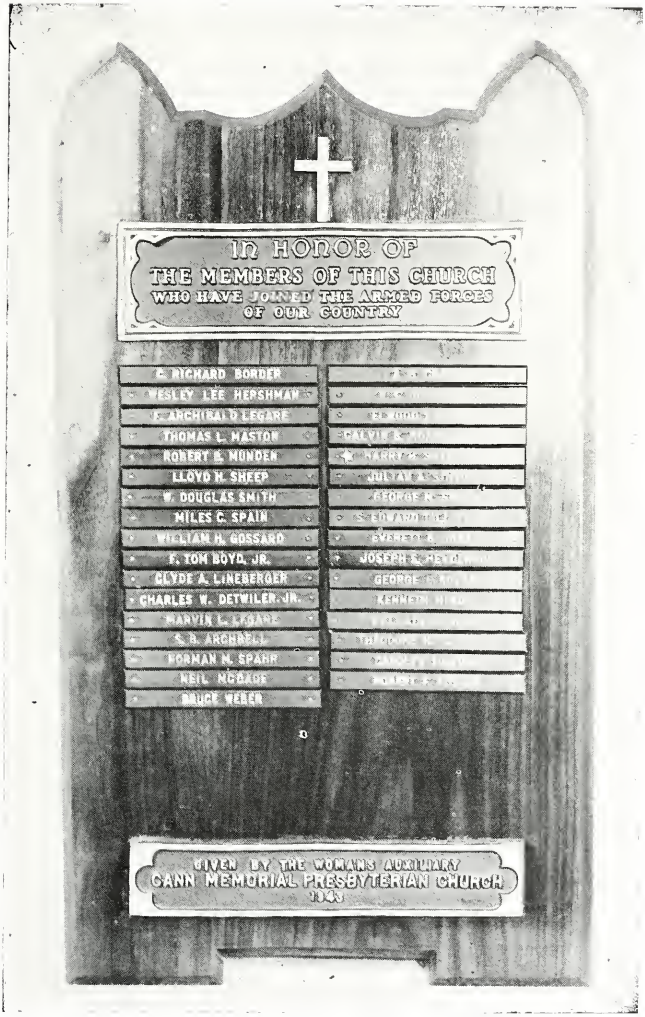


INSCRIPTION ON BAPTISMAL FONT
"In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Bennett"

At a congregational meeting November 15, 1942 the Building Committee made its final report to the congregation and turned over to it the building completed and equipped. The value of building and equipment and furniture is at least $30,000 in terms of replacement. The cost was actually a little over $23,000. The committee was discharged with thanks.

The following Sunday, November 22, 1942, the Dedication Service was held at 4:30 in the afternoon. Dr. B. R. Lacy, Jr., President of Union Theological Seminary, preached the sermon. After the service the members and their friends met in the Educational Building for a very informal reception. Because of wartime travel conditions none of our former ministers could be with us. The Rev. T. D. Johnston, son of the minister who organized the church, was present. Another guest was Mrs. F. D. Viehe, widow of a former minister and herself a daughter of the church.

During the period our church was being built many changes were being made in the town by the war. The shipyard had been greatly enlarged. The Coast Guard Air Base had been built and enlarged. The Naval Air Station had been put into commission. The Consolidated Aircraft Corporation had developed here their East Coast Modification Center. The population had increased by at least 50%. Three housing projects have been built or are in process of construction. Men in all branches of the Service are stationed here. In addition to the workers and the Service men stationed here we get the overflow from Norfolk. Surely the church was built at a most opportune time!


IN HONOR OF
THE MEMBERS OF THIS CHURCH
WHO HAVE JOINED THE ARMED FORCES
OF OUR COUNTRY
C. RICHARD BORDER
WESLEY LEE HEPSHMAN
ARCHIBALD LEGARE
THOMAS L. MASTON
ROBERT E. MUNDEN
LLOYD H. SHEEP
W. DOUGLAS SMITH
MILES C. SPAIN
WILLIAM H. GOSSARD
F. TOM BOYD, JR.
CLYDE A. LINEBERGER
CHARLES W. DETWILER, JR.
MARVIN L. LEGARE
S. B. ARCHIBELL
NORMAN M. SPAHR
NEIL McBRIDE
BRUCE WEBER
JOSEPH S.
GEORGE
KENNETH
GIVEN BY THE WOMANS AUXILIARY
CANN MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1943

The building of the church came at a critical time in the history of Cann Memorial Church. As previously stated the congregation has always been small. The combination of the few members, a building grown inadequate and unattractive and long periods without a pastor had produced a feeling of discouragement and hopelessness. That was hard to overcome. Yet always persisted the desire for a better church edifice, one that would offer facilities to carry out the program of the Presbyterian Church, one that would share in the religious life of the town.

The carrying out of a building program planned to meet the present and anticipated needs of the congregation came during a period of war. Wartime restrictions on formerly commonplace articles and materials made the erection of the new church building much more difficult. War industries drained this section of North Carolina of labor. A shortage of men or materials or both often threatened to stop the work altogether.

Yet this same factor, War, which made the erection of the building more difficult also made its completion imperative. The location of War projects in Elizabeth City brought many new people to the town. The Presbyterian congregation in its old building was utterly unable to carry out a program to reach these people. It had no attractive church home to offer them. If the building program had not been undertaken just when it was it must have been postponed for the duration of the war. It is doubtful that the congregation could have held together for that length of time in the old building.

It seems providential that the same circumstances that created difficulties helped to solve them. If the building program had not been undertaken at the time it was we would not have had the assistance of the men engaged in the building of the Naval Air Station. Their contribution of money, labor and time as well as their encouragement has been invaluable. Mention has already been made of the assistance given by them. Again because the program was started while the new Grammar School was being built we were able to obtain slate for the roof and workmen for the construction. These happenings and other similar ones made us believe that the building of the church was providentially ordered and that it had before it a divinely appointed task.

Already it has ministered to many men in the Service. Two services have been conducted by them. One was for enlisted men and one for officers. Men from the Bases are among the congregation at every worship service. They were even present at the midnight communion service on Christmas Eve. Many marriages of men in the service, or defense workers, and their brides have been solemnized in the church.

The members of the church who embarked upon the venture of faith that the building program actually was have been enriched by the experience. The building itself will ever be a testimony to faith. Without faith it could not have been erected. When faith reached up God's helping hand reached down to meet it. The result has been this beautiful sanctuary. It is as worshipful in atmosphere as its planners hoped it might be. The members of the congregation who for so many years longed for such a house of worship cannot express the joy and thankfulness in their hearts. They can only join with the Psalmist in saying:

"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name."—Ps. 103:1.

Plaque Placed on Vestibule Wall by Members of the Congregation

A STATEMENT BY THE PASTOR, REV. CLAYTON C. CRAWFORD

I have asked for the privilege of adding to this well written book some remarks concerning our building program.

The word "miracle" has been used in connection with our building program during the last few years. There is no word that more nearly expresses the true meaning of the experiences through which pastor and people have gone during the course of the building of our new sanctuary. The miracle is the triumph of faith.

When the pastor at the morning worship on October 8, 1939 preached a sermon from the text: "so we built the wall, . . . for the people had a mind to work" and called on the people of this church to accept the challenge and embark on an ambitious building program he thought he was very optimistic—events have since proved that, if anything he was pessimistic—certainly the results have far exceeded his own expectations. It is always thus—when we make the venture of faith, God pours out his blessings "exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think". No written account can possibly record the many times when at critical junctures in our building enterprise God raised up someone to help. And yet some effort needs to be made to record a few of these constantly recurring miracles. Mention is made of the stained glass windows which were purchased. Our Building Committee did not even dream of stained glass windows—they were far beyond our ability to buy. But one day, God, in His Providence, sent a stained glass artist to town just at the time we were ready to order our windows. But stained glass windows were so far out of our reach that we did not even allow him to figure on them. Before he left, however, he gave us a price on three altar windows. Several weeks later, Miss Mary E. Bright, one of the members of the Building Committee, whose unflagging faith and sacrificial giving has done so much to make our sanctuary possible, offered to purchase these three windows. Then, as the account states, was born the dream of stained glass windows throughout the church. Window after window was spoken for until every window was purchased. Had the altar windows not been offered it is reasonable to assume that we would have plain glass windows in our lovely church today.

Early in November 1941 our money was spent, the church was far from complete, the prospect for the immediate future was any-

thing but encouraging. One evening a distinguished looking gentleman called on the pastor. This is what he said: "I have been looking at your unfinished church—we can't let it stay that way, what can I do to help?". Well, that was the easiest question the pastor ever answered. The gentleman in question was Mr. F. R. Schanck and he and his delightful wife were an inspiration to our church the entire time they were in Elizabeth City. Mr. Schanck was an elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Portland, Oregon, active in the affairs of the Portland Council of Churches, President of the Board of Trustees of Albany College and had come to Elizabeth City as Consulting Engineer in the erection of the Naval Air Station. Surely God sent him to our city at this time. For more than a year he gave of his wisdom and influence and time to make our sanctuary complete. He it was who stepped into the breach when it looked as though Government restrictions would prevent the construction of our pipe organ and through representations to the War Production Board in Washington made possible its construction and delivery to us just under the final deadline. He it was who decided we must have a carpet for the chancel and church and underwrote its purchase and then kept at the job until it was paid for. He it was who was never too busy to cheer the pastor in dark moments. The Schancks are but one shining example of how God raised up those to help us.

A young man of another faith who does not wish his name divulged, gave us the beautiful new pulpit Bible, our useful communion service, and shared in the purchase of our sound system.

Shortly before this Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Wynne had moved to town. Mr. Wynne was the plumbing contractor in the erection of the Naval Air Station. He immediately threw himself into the work of our little church. Nothing was too much for him to do—no job was too difficult for him to undertake. He didn't know the meaning of "it can't be done". One night just a half an hour before the evening service the following conversation took place: "Preacher, what kind of a pipe organ are you putting in the new church?" "We are putting a piano in the new church, Mr. Wynne, a pipe organ may come some day, but we have no prospects now". This reply of course didn't satisfy Mr. Wynne. He didn't have any ready money, but he stipulated that his tithe was to be set aside by the church for an organ fund. His son agreed to help too; after the service that very same night the pastor was telling Mr. Ernest J. Sanders about this proposal and his breath was abruptly knocked out of him when Ernest said: "Clayton, go buy the organ, I will underwrite its purchase". So between the Wynne's, junior and senior, and a magnificent contribution from Ernest Sanders our Wicks pipe organ was purchased. One whole year after it has been installed the pastor still gets a thrill when its beautiful notes fill the sanctuary.

THE ALCOVE IN THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Well, I might go on ad infinitum telling the perfectly miraculous story of how our beautiful sanctuary came into being. It was just amazing to see how people, both inside and out of our church, wanted to give something to help make our sanctuary beautiful. The chime system which includes the tower music and hard of hearing aids was given by Miss Mary E. Bright, Mr. Miles Clark and the young man already mentioned. Two men, not members of our church, you see, shared in the gift of this delightful acquisition to the usefulness of our church.

Oliver Gilbert without solicitation of any sort, though not a member of our church asked: "What can I give?" That is how we secured our fine choir benches and clergy chairs. From beginning to end this is how it has been.

Even after the church was completed and dedicated, God has still been raising up men to help. In March 1943 we received Mr. Marshall Jones into the membership of our church. His first remark after being received was: "Parson, you should have your study at the church". Within 30 days the pastor had as beautiful a church study as will be found anywhere. To Marshall, the cost was secondary – the study must be just right. So, thanks to another man whom God sent us, we have a beautifully appointed study, fully equipped and a delightful church office for our church secretary.

THE FELLOWSHIP ROOM FOR SERVICE MEN

These two rooms had formerly been our Sunday School Assembly rooms—thus it was necessary to build an addition to our Church House to provide an adequate assembly room, a place for church suppers and a recreation room for service men. As a result of this new need a group of our own people together with some generous people from without the church built this useful and adequate addition.

This book would not be complete without some word concerning our Service Men's Club. Our Church House has been opened for the benefit of men in uniform seven days a week. Facilities for reading, writing and recreation are made available to service men from nine in the morning until ten at night. The facilities have been used most frequently by our comrades in the R. A. F. It is not an infrequent occurrence to have boys from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Scotland and England using our recreation or writing rooms in the space of a single week. This work among men in uniform is continuing to grow in scope and importance. Sunday, two men in the Navy who have been attending our church and making use of our facilities, made profession of their faith in Christ.

A CORNER IN THE CHURCH OFFICE

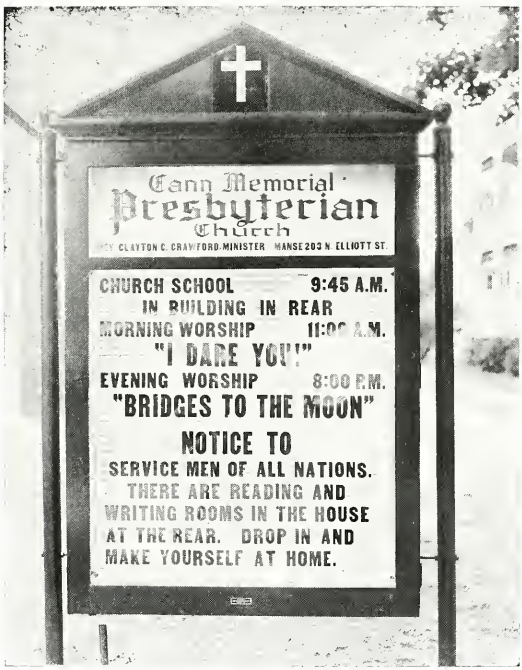
This church is growing in usefulness—its ministry, due to the fortunes of war is not only metropolitan, but is world-wide. As witness: three men of the Royal New Zealand Air Force said to the pastor only recently: "One of our comrades in Australia told us to look you up and attend your church when we came to Elizabeth City in the States". That makes a fellow feel good!

Or to have a bright young chap in the Coast Guard and his bride say: "You know we walked up and down in front of your church—we ventured inside—and then both said: 'This church was made for our wedding'."

These are the days for which God prepared our church. God knew better than we the opportunities that would be ours. May we never fail to justify his blessings.

This book is for posterity. You who read it, take heart and give thanks! Know that God answers prayer and that faith in Him will forever triumph! Close to Christmas in 1943 we who have been so abundantly blessed by Him do thank God and give Him the glory.

"Unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ
Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end."


Cann Memorial
Presbyterian
Church
REV. CLAYTON C. CRAWFORD-MINISTER MANSE 203 N. ELLIOTT ST.
CHURCH SCHOOL 9:45 A.M.
IN BUILDING IN REAR
MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.
"I DARE YOU!"
EVENING WORSHIP 8:00 P.M.
"BRIDGES TO THE MOON"
NOTICE TO
SERVICE MEN OF ALL NATIONS.
THERE ARE READING AND
WRITING ROOMS IN THE HOUSE
AT THE REAR. DROP IN AND
MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.

SPECIAL GIFTS OF MONEY

In addition to all the members of our church who contributed towards the Building Program the following made special gifts of money:

Dr. Maitland Alexander	Pittsburg, Pa.
Mrs. Nellie E. Bryson	Philadelphia, Pa.
W. H. Belk	Charlotte, N. C.
W. S. Sexton	Elizabeth City
Cathrine Norman	Jacksonville, Fla.
Mrs. A. P. Thorpe	Rocky Mount, N. C.
A. P. Thorpe Fund	Rocky Mount, N. C.
Home Mission Committee of Albemarle Presbytery	
Home Mission Committee of Synod of North Carolina	
Home Mission Committee of General Assembly	
Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Thorpe, Jr.	Rocky Mount, N. C.
Cann Memorial Sunday School	
A. B. Houtz	Elizabeth City
Rev. W. T. Thompson, D. D.	Richmond, Va.
Henry A. Walker	Kinston, N. C.
Belk-Tyler Company	Elizabeth City
R. C. Madrin	Elizabeth City
Peter Gilchrist	Charlotte, N. C.
McAlister Carson	Charlotte, N. C.
Rev. J. E. Bear, D. D.	Richmond, Va.
Mrs. John L. Wells	Elizabeth City
Dr. R. A. Dunn	Charlotte, N. C.
Mrs. I. V. Barrett	Elizabeth City
H. R. Pancoast	Elizabeth City
Harold C. Foreman	Elizabeth City
Mrs. Hilton Hudnell	Suffolk, Va.
Mrs. Annie Williams	Elizabeth City
Oscar Williams	Elizabeth City

CARPET

As told in the story of the building program Mr. F. R. Schanck undertook the responsibility of securing funds for the purchase of a carpet. A contribution of $200.00 was made toward the purchase price by Mrs. George R. Bright. Other members joined in the movement. The following friends of the church gave to this fund:

D. D. StClair
C. F. Darling
R. H. Fritz
C. M. Hobbs
H. Tatum Sparger
T. R. Cobb
F. R. Schanck
W. P. Wells
H. R. Olson
Miss Annie Fellers
Gus Geraris
Jerry Kambis
Mrs. A. B. Houtz
E. L. Galyon
Lt. H. A. LaChapelle
Martin B. Simpson
Howard R. Pancoast
Lt. Com. J. A. Coddington
J. L. Wynne
J. L. Wynne, Jr.

THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS WERE GIVEN BY:

The Wicks Pipe Organ	E. J. Sanders J. L. Wynne J. L. Wynne, Jr.
The Sound System	Mary E. Bright Miles L. Clark A Friend
Pulpit	W. P. McDowell, Jr., in memory of his mother
Lectern	Mrs. H. H. Sheep and R. McD. Cann in memory of H. H. Sheep, Jr., who was killed in the service of his country December 9, 1941
Altar Cross	Lt. Norman W. Pinney, Jr., Army Air Corps
Pedestal Vases	Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Maston and family
Wrought Iron Candelabras	Mrs. John L. Wells
Illuminated Bulletin Board	Mrs. R. C. Jones and family in memory of Mr. R. C. Jones
Wrought Iron Rail for front steps	Mrs. I. M. Meekins
Lighting Fixtures in Nave	Woman's Auxiliary Magazine Fund
Baptismal Font	Mrs. C. B. Morrisette in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Bennett
Choir Benches and Clergy Seat	Oliver F. Gilbert, Jr.

THE WINDOWS WERE GIVEN BY:

In memory of Samuel Lloyd Sheep *Pauline Hinton Sheep*	(Mrs. P. W.) Pauline Sheep Glidewell (Mrs. G. D.) Margaret Sheep Towe Brig. Gen. William Lloyd Sheep
In memory of Emma Greene Ward	Judge C. E. Thompson
In memory of Rev. Philip Weller Melick *Mary Ellen Camden Melick*	(Mrs. L. S.) Grace Melick Blades (Mrs. F. D.) Ada Melick Viehe Camden W. Melick
A Thank-offering for life of *Camden W. Melick*	Mrs. C. W. Melick Ellen Melick Rollins Anne Melick Brice Billie Melick Hayden Suzanne F. Melick
In memory of George R. Bright	Mary E. Bright
In memory of *Charles Frederick Mather Niles* *Fanny Sneath Niles*	Mrs. Frederica Niles Earlie
In honor of Dr. Lemuel Shotwell Blades *Grace Melick Blades*	Charles Camden Blades James Evans Blades Melick W. Blades Lemuel S. Blades, Jr.
In memory of Enoch Ferebee Lamb *Ella Gale Creecy Lamb*	Fred C. Lamb Tazewell H. Lamb Paul C. Lamb John F. Lamb

Single windows were given by:

(Mrs. G. R.) Elizabeth Dod Bright
Mary E. Bright
Rev. C. C. Crawford
Rev. L. W. Topping
(Mrs. C. C.) Betsey Davis Blades
Rev. D. C. Crawford, Jr.

PASTORS OF

CANN MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. F. H. Johnston	1890–1900
Rev. Hugh White	1901
Rev. J. Spencer Smith	1901–1902
Rev. R. L. Grier	1902–1904
No pastor for two years. Services were conducted by Rev. F. D. Viehe, Rev. Cochran of Gastonia, Rev. J. H. Wool of Oxford, Rev. J. M. Bandel of Baltimore, Rev. W. A. Murray of Lincolnton, Rev. H. S. Bradshaw of New Bern, Rev. Herries of Washington, N. C. and Rev. J. H. Henderlite of Henderson	
Rev. T. W. Winfield	1906–1907
Rev. F. D. Viehe	1907–1908
Rev. F. M. Hawley	1909–1910
Rev. J. B. Black	1911–1919
Rev. H. M. Pressly	1919–1920
Rev. William McC. Miller	1920 (few months only)
No pastor for more than three years	
Rev. F. H. Scattergood	1923–1927
No pastor for about a year	
Rev. C. M. Brown	1928–1933
No pastor from spring of 1933 till fall of 1933	
Rev. L. W. Topping	1933–1937
No pastor from December 1937 till March 1939	
Rev. Clayton C. Crawford	1939–

THE SESSION

First Row, Left to Right—G. D. Towe, C. W. Melick, J. L. Gossard, Judge C. E. Thompson.
Second Row—Rev. C. C. Crawford, Dr. F. H. Salters, Judge L. S. Blades, Jr., A. W. Houtz

REGISTER OF ELDERS

Name	*When Ordained or Installed*	*Dismissed or Ceased To Act*
Enoch Ferebee Lamb	March 24, 1889	Died 1921
Samuel Lloyd Sheep	March 11, 1906	Died October 29, 1928
Camden Weller Melick	June 30, 1907	
Frank Martin	October 6, 1907	No record
S. H. Spragins		1918
Charles Everett Thompson	January 27, 1924	
Samuel Edward Tillitt	March 4, 1934	June 23, 1942
Leslie J. Gossard	December 5, 1937	
Lemuel Showell Blades, Jr.	January 28, 1940	
Alfred William Houtz	January 28, 1940	
Garland D. Towe	December 20, 1942	
F. H. Salters	December 20, 1942	

THE DIACONATE

First Row, Left to Right—S. B. Archbell, C. C. Blades, Dr. L. S. Blades, C. B. Morrisette, M. H. Jones, Rev. C. C. Crawford.

Second Row—E. J. Sanders, R. F. Foster, Harvey Johnson, F. T. Boyd, Jr. W. F. Larson, Neil McDade and Julian Ross not shown.

REGISTER OF DEACONS

Name	*When Ordained or Installed*	*Dismissed or Ceased To Act*
Samuel Lloyd Sheep	March 24, 1889	Elected Elder, 1905
Dr. Lemuel Showell Blades	November 11, 1906	
J. Boyd Anderson	November 11, 1906	No record
Camden Weller Melick	March 11, 1906	Elected Elder, 1907
William Zimmerman	June 30, 1907	No record
T. Delos Crary	March 15, 1914	No record
Charles Everett Thompson	March 15, 1914	Elected Elder, 1924
C. T. Bennett	January 27, 1924	Died July, 1933
L. W. Cartwright	January 27, 1924	No record
Sprigg Brent	January 27, 1924	Died Dec. 15, 1930
Lemuel Showell Blades, Jr.	April 10, 1932	Elected Elder, 1940
Alfred William Houtz	April 10, 1932	Elected Elder, 1940
Frederick Niles Lowe	May 7, 1939	December 17, 1939
Garland Darden Towe	May 7, 1939	Elected Elder, 1942
Warren Larson	January 28, 1940	
Charles Camden Blades	January 28, 1940	
Ernest J. Sanders	January 28, 1940	
Sidney B. Archbell	December 20, 1942	
James Lester Wynne	December 20, 1942	September 17, 1943
Marvin L. Legare	December 20, 1942	
Francis Thomas Boyd, Jr.	December 31, 1943	
Marshall H. Jones	January 9, 1944	
Calvin B. Morrisette	January 9, 1944	
Julian Ross	January 9, 1944	
Neil McDade	January 9, 1944	
Robert F. Foster	January 9, 1944	
Harvey Johnson	January 9, 1944	

MEMBERSHIP ROLL AS OF APRIL 1, 1944

*Anderson, Mrs. Norman G.
Archbell, Sidney B.
*Baughman, Fred H.
*Baughman, Mrs. Fred H.
Blades, Charles Camden
Blades, Mrs. Charles Camden
Blades, James Evans
*Blades, Miss Mary Ellen
Blades, Melick W.
Blades, Mrs. Melick W.
*Blades, Miss Grace Marie
Blades, L. S.
Blades, Mrs. L. S.
Blades, L. S., Jr.
Blades, Mrs. L. S., Jr.
*Blades, Miss Mary Charles
*Blades, L. S., III
*Border, Charles R.
*Border, Mrs. Charles R.
*Boyd, F. T., Jr.
*Boyd, Mrs. F. T., Jr.
Brice, Miss Kathleen
*Brice, R. G.
*Brice, Mrs. R. G.
Bright, Mrs. George R.
Bright, Miss Mary
*Brinson, George R.
*Carroll, Mrs. H. S.
*Channing, Mrs. Maude
*Clifford, T. H.
*Clifford, Mrs. T. H.
*Cooper, Miss Lillian
Crane, A. B.
*Crane, Mrs. A. B.
Crawford, Mrs. C. C.
Crawford, Miss Barbara
*Crawford, Miss Mary
*Detwiler, Charles W., Jr.
Evans, Mrs. Wilbur
*Foster, Robert F.
*Gibbs, K. R.
*Gibbs, Mrs. K. R.
*Gilbert, Mrs. Oliver F., Jr.
*Gilchrist, A. C.
*Gilchrist, Mrs. A. C.
*Good, Wallace M.
*Good, Mrs. Wallace M.
Gossard, L. J.
Gossard, Mrs. L. J.
Gossard, William H.
Gossard, Miss Mary Jean
Griffin, Edward
Hall, C. W.
*Hall, Miss Virginia
Hayes, Robert A.
*Henderson, Joseph S.
*Henderson, Mrs. Joseph S.
*Hinds, Kenneth
*Hinds, Mrs. Kenneth
Hines, Miss Mildred
Houtz, A. W.
Houtz, Mrs. A. W.
*Houtz, A. W., Jr.
Hurshman, Wesley Lee
*Johnson, Harvey
Jones, Mrs. R. C.
Jones, R. C., Jr.
Jones, Everett B.
Jones, Miss Winifred
*Jones, Marshall H.
Jones, Mrs. Marshall H.
*Jones, Miss Judith
*Kamhis, Mrs. Jerry J.
*Kolar, George E.
*Lacy, Mrs. W. H.
Larson, Warren F.
Larson, Mrs. Warren F.
*Leary, Mrs. S. C.
*Legare, Francis A.
*Legare, Marvin L.
*Legare, Mrs. Marvin L.
*Lineberger, Clyde A.
*Lineberger, Mrs. Clyde A.
Lowe, Miss Fanny
*Luebbe, Fred H.
*Luebbe, Mrs. Fred H.
Madrin, Mrs. R. C.
Maston, E. T.
Maston, Mrs. E. T.
Maston, Thomas L.
Maston, Miss Jacqueline
*Maust, Mrs. Frank, Jr.
*Meekins, Mrs. I. M.
Melick, Camden W.
*Morgan, Charles V.
*Morgan, Mrs. Charles V.
*Morrisette, Calvin B.
Morrisette, Mrs. Calvin B.
*Morrisette, C. B., Jr.
Munden, Miss Carolyn
Munden, Robert B.
*McDade, Neil
*McDade, Mrs. Neil
*McDowell, Wm. P., Jr.
*McDowell, Mrs. Wm. P., Jr.
Peele, Mrs. Braxton
*Potter, Mrs. H. C.
*Potter, Miss Josephine
Raper, Mrs. Marie
*Ross, Julian
*Ross, Julian, Jr.
Ross, J. M.
Ross, Mrs. J. M.
*Russell, Miss Marie
*Salters, Frederick H.
*Salters, Mrs. Frederick H.
Sanders, Mrs. Archie
Sanders, Joseph
Sanders, Ernest J.
Scull, Mrs. L. M.
Sheep, Mrs. Harry H.
Sheep, Lloyd
Simmons, Mrs. Harvell
Simmons, Mrs. W. I.
Simmons, Juil
Stallings, Mrs. George
*Smith, George M.
*Smith, Mrs. George M.
*Smith, Miss Rosemary
*Smith, Wm. D.
*Smith, Mrs. Wm. D.
*Smith, Miss Sara Belle
*Spahr, Norman M.
*Spahr, Mrs. Norman M.
Spain, Miles C.
Thompson, C. E.
Thompson, Mrs. C. E.
Tillitt, S. E.
Tillitt, Mrs. S. E.
Tillitt, S. E., Jr.
Tillitt, Miss Frances
Towe, Garland D.
Towe, Mrs. Garland D.
Trueblood, H. L.
*Watkins, Ernest M.
*Watkins, Mrs. Ernest M.
*Weber, Bruce Leon

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* The names of Members so marked have been received into our church since the building program was inaugurated.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Rev. Clayton C. Crawford — Minister

Manse: 203 North Elliott Street - Telephone 1142-W
Church Study - 1142-J

Miss Lillian Cooper — Church Secretary

Home: 307 West Colonial Avenue - Telephone 808-J
Church Office - 1142-J

SESSION

Rev. Clayton C. Crawford — Moderator
C. W. Melick — Clerk

Judge C. E. Thompson	G. D. Towe	A. W. Hautz
J. L. Gossard	Judge L. S. Blades, Jr.	Dr. F. H. Salters

The Session meets on the second Monday of the month and after every service for the reception of new members

DIACONATE

E. J. Sanders — Chairman
C. B. Morrisette — Vice-Chairman
C. C. Blades — Secretary-Treasurer

W. F. Larson	Julian Ross	*F. T. Boyd, Jr.
M. H. Jones	*M. L. Legare	Harvey Johnson
*Neil McDade	Dr. L. S. Blades	*Robert F. Foster
S. B. Archbell		

The Diaconate meets on the first Monday of the month.

* Deacons in the Armed Forces.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Mrs. J. L. Gossard — President
Mrs. R. C. Jones — Vice-President
Mrs. C. C. Crawford — Secretary
Mrs. H. H. Sheep — Treasurer
Miss Mary Bright — Historian

The Auxiliary meets on the third Monday of the month at three-thirty in the Church House.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Judge L. S. Blades, Jr. — General Superintendent
W. F. Larson — Assistant General Superintendent
Harvey Johnson — Secretary and Treasurer

SEXTON

Daniel White

ROSE WINDOW

Given by Mr. and Mrs. Oliver F. Gilbert, Jr.

MI
75.7
E43
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UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
MI 75.7 E43 W STACKS
Bright, Mary E./The triumph of faith : t
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Elizabeth City, N. C.
Cann Memorial Pres. Ch.
The triumph of faith.

FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS ON BOOK POCKET

DUE	INITIALS AND SURNAME	CAR.
Apr 3 '56	Cataloging room	

REGULAR LOANS
(2 WEEKS)

Sign both cards with Initials and Surname.
2. Non-residents add full address.
3. Leave both cards (signed) at desk.
4. Before leaving desk secure DATE DUE CARD and place it in this pocket.

RESERVE BOOK LOANS
Follow instructions on Reserve Book Card.

CARREL LOANS
Apply to desk attendant.